

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

In the Claims: Please cancel claims 2-7:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Canceled).
6. (Canceled).
7. (Canceled).
8. (Canceled)
9. (Withdrawn) A method for improving immune-function in mammals using *Lactobacillus reuteri* strains in products containing cells of such strains, comprising: using strains that
  - a. exhibit good toxin binding and neutralizing effect;
  - b. and exhibit good CD4+ cell recruitment.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously submitted) A method of producing an ingestible product for improving immune-function in mammals, comprising:
  - a. determining the cytotoxic activity of strains of *Lactobacillus reuteri* by evaluating supernatants for good toxin binding and a toxin neutralizing effect, said supernatants obtained from growing each strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* in suitable host cells,
  - b. selecting strains of *Lactobacillus reuteri* having a good toxin binding and toxin neutralizing effect,
  - c. testing cells of the selected strains of *Lactobacillus reuteri* for immunomodulating activity by testing for an increase in the number of CD4+ lymphocytes in tissue samples from a test mammal to which the strains have been administered, and

- d. formulating the product to contain cells of a strain of *Lactobacillus reuteri* having an increase in the number of CD4+ lymphocytes in the samples from the test mammal.

12. (Withdrawn) A product comprising the culture supernatant of *Lactobacillus reuteri* strain ATCC55730 having the capability of increasing the number of CD4+ lymphocytes and has good toxin binding and a good toxin neutralizing effect when administered to a mammal.